

Significant Tornadoes in the Chicago Metropolitan Area

Updated 2017

Date	Time	F	Dead	Inj	County	Location/description
5/22/1855	1630	NA	3	6	Cook	Brief touchdown at Norwood Park.
6/3/1860	2130	NA	0	4	Kane, Cook, Lake	15 mile path from west of Elgin to Dundee to Lake Zurich. Other tornadoes struck near Glencoe and Long Grove.
5/6/1876	1710	F3	2	35	Cook	Tornado ripped apart buildings in downtown Chicago. A large multiple vortex tornado was seen moving out over Lake Michigan.
5/23/1878	1800	F4	2	8	Cook	From 6 miles east northeast of Elgin to near Barrington.
9/29/1881	1700	F2	0	0	Kendall	From south of Yorkville to near Oswego.
5/18/1883	1750	F4	4	15	Boone, McHenry	From northwest of Capron to just across the Wisconsin border. 3 people were killed in Illinois and another person was killed in Wisconsin.
5/18/1883	2245	F2	0	2	Will	Near Peotone.
6/11/1883	1730	F2	0	1	McHenry	Southeast of Harvard.
9/18/1886	1915	F2	0	20	Will	Moved northeast along the DesPlaines River hitting Joliet.
6/10/1890	2115	F2	0	0	Will	Just south of Channahon.
5/25/1896	0150	F3	0	NA	Cook	Park Ridge, Edison Park, Norwood Park, Niles.
11/11/1911	1730	F2	0	NA	DuPage	3 miles east of Aurora to northeast of Naperville.
11/11/1911	2000	F3	0	5	Lake, Porter IN	Leroy to 3 miles west of Valparaiso to south of Michigan City.
4/6/1912	NA	NA	0	18	Cook	Niles Center (now Skokie) and Wilmette.
4/21/1912	1800	F2	0	20	Kankakee, Lake IN	13 mile path from St. George through Grant Park.
5/26/1917	1645	F4	3	60	Will, Lake IN	33 mile path from Manhattan to 2 miles northeast of Crown Point.
5/26/1917	1740	F4	4	60	Lake, Porter IN	20 mile path from south of Crown Point and ended near Kouts.
3/28/1920	1205	F3	8	100	Kane, Cook, Lake	From just southeast of LaFox to the south side of Elgin to Wauconda.

3/28/1920	1215	F4	20	300	Will, Cook	53 mile path from 2 miles north of Channahon to Romeoville to the Bellwood-Maywood area to Wilmette and out over the Lake. The worst damage was Maywood through Melrose Park.
9/11/1925	0100	F2	0	1	DuPage	7 mile path beginning 4 miles southwest of Wheaton.
5/18/1926	1700	F2	0	6	Cook	Harvey.
5/5/1930	1515	F2	0	0	Cook	Maywood.
4/30/1933	1200	F2	0	3	Kane	Plato Center.
4/7/1948	1640	F3	0	1	Grundy, Will	3 miles southwest of Coal City to Braidwood.
4/7/1948	1720	F4	4	20	Kankakee, Lake, Porter, Jasper	40 mile path From 2 miles west northwest of Manteno to 5 miles south of Hebron. 3 fatalities were in Illinois, one in Indiana.
4/7/1948	1739	F2	0	11	Cook, Lake, Porter, LaPorte	30 mile path from Calumet City to 4 miles south of Michigan City.
11/13/1951	1605	F2	0	0	Lake IN	Near Gary.
5/27/1954	1830	F2	0	0	Kendall, Kane	Near Aurora. Another smaller tornado occurred near Westmont.
6/1/1954	0200	F2	0	0	Lake IN	5 miles southwest of Lowell.
8/23/1956	1440	F2	0	3	Cook	Tinley Park.
8/23/1956	1400	F2	0	0	Kane	Near Elgin.
7/12/1957	2000	F2	0	0	Lake IN	Near Cedar Lake.
8/6/1958	1710	F2	0	0	Kane	Near Aurora.
8/15/1958	0200	F2	0	0	Lee, DeKalb, Kendall, Will	A family of tornadoes moved across a 70 mile path from Dixon to Compton to Sandwich to Joliet.
10/9/1958	0026	F2	1	0	McHenry, Lake	43 mile path from west of Harvard to near Waukegan.
9/26/1959	1800	F1	0	14	Cook, Lake IL	12 mile path Palatine to Lake Forest.
9/26/1959	1745	F2	0	0	DuPage, Cook	Near O=Hare, Niles, Park Ridge.
10/8/1959	1530	F2	0	1	McHenry	McHenry.
3/4/1961	1704	F2	1	115	Cook	South side of Chicago from 91 st & Western to 68 th at Lake Michigan. \$7 million in damage.
4/23/1961	1545	F3	0	4	Will	27 mile path from Lorenzo to Beecher.
4/23/1961	1637	F2	0	0	Lake, Newton IN	Near Lowell to Shelby and Roselawn.

6/23/1962	1652	F2	0	10	Cook	Oak Forest.
7/20/1962	1500	F2	0	0	Lake, Porter IN	Griffith to Crocker.
4/19/1963	1745	F2	0	0	McHenry	Crystal Lake.
4/11/1965	1520	F4	6	75	McHenry, Lake	Crystal Lake to Wauconda. Path 11 miles long as much as 400 yards wide. \$1.5 million in damage.
4/11/1965	1550	F2	0	0	Lake IL	Druce Lake to Gurnee.
5/26/1965	0745	F2	0	11	DuPage, Cook	Addison to Ohare.
5/26/1965	0822	F2	0	0	Cook	Near Sauk Village.
11/12/1965	1435	F2	2	90	Grundy, Will, Cook	Near Channahon to Tinley Park. 36 mile path.
11/12/1965	1653	F2	0	14	Lake IN	Munster.
4/19/1966	2227	F2	0	3	DuPage	Near Lisle.
6/9/1966	0515	F2	1	30	Cook	Arlington Hts to Prospect Hts.
4/21/1967	1550	F4	24	500	Boone, McHenry	2 miles southeast of Cherry Valley to Belvidere to near Woodstock. 28 mile path, as much as 2 mile wide. \$20 million in damage. 13 killed and 300 injured as 12 buses were tossed around at Belvidere High School at dismissal time.
4/21/1967	1710	F4	1	100	Kane, Cook, Lake	Elgin to Lake Zurich. 17 mile path. \$10 million in damage.
4/21/1967	1700	F2	0	0	Kane	LaFox.
4/21/1967	1700	F2	0	0	Kane, Cook	Northwest side of Batavia, southeast side of Geneva, to Streamwood.
4/21/1967	1724	F4	33	500	Cook	Palos Hills to Oak Lawn to south side of Chicago. 16 mile path, 200 yards wide. Over \$50 million in damage. Chicago area's most deadly tornado.
10/24/1967	1553	F2	0	0	Lake, Porter IN	Near Portage.
4/30/1970	1425	F2	0	9	Cook	Des Plaines, Park Ridge.
8/24/1971	1915	F2	0	2	DuPage	Naperville.
4/6/1972	2030	F2	1	22	Will	Shorewood and Joliet.
7/17/1972	1700	F3	0	0	Grundy, Will	Minooka to Joliet.
7/17/1972	1910	F2	0	0	DuPage	Glen Ellyn.
8/25/1972	2130	F2	0	1	Cook	Near Park Ridge.
9/28/1972	1755	F4	0	20	Lake IL	North Chicago to Waukegan. 5 mile path. \$1 million in damage.
4/21/1973	2100	F2	0	0	DuPage	Wheaton.
6/20/1974	1910	F3	0	5	Lake IN	Lowell.
6/17/1975	1154	F2	0	0	Cook	Schaumburg, Rolling Meadows.
3/12/1976	1250	F3	0	3	Kendall, DuPage	23 mile path from south of Oswego to Villa Park.

3/12/1976	1257	F3	2	66	DuPage, Cook	17 mile path Northlake to Willmette.
3/12/1976	1400	F2	0	0	Lake, Porter	Deep River.
3/12/1976	1400	F4	0	7	Lake, Porter, LaPorte IN	25 mile path from Deep River to Michigan City. 200 yards wide.
4/20/1976	1945	F2	0	2	Lake IL	Zion.
6/13/1976	1618	F4	2	23	Cook, DuPage	Lemont. 8 mile meandering path. \$13 million in damage.
6/30/1977	1453	F2	0	1	Lake, Porter IN	Hobart to South Haven.
6/25/1978	1210	F1	1	0	Will, Kankakee	Southeast of Wilmington.
8/15/1978	1945	F2	0	0	McHenry	Huntley.
7/16/1980	0255	F2	0	0	Kane	Hampshire.
4/27/1984	1739	F3	1	5	Kendall, Will	Plainfield.
9/29/1986	1330	F1	0	10	Cook	North Riverside.
4/5/1988	2000	F2	0	0	Grundy, Will	Wilmington to New Lenox.
8/28/1990	1510	F5	29	350	Kendall, Will	Oswego to Plainfield to Joliet. 16 mile path. \$165 million in damage. Only F5 to ever occur in Chicago area.
3/27/1991	1555	F3	0	7	Will, Cook	Romeoville to Lemont.
8/15/1993	1635	F2	0	0	Will	New Lenox.
4/19/1996	2232	F2	0	2	Lake IL	Zion.
5/18/1997	1818	F2	0	0	Lake IL	Lindenhurst to Gurnee.
1/7/2008	1630	EF3	0	5	Boone, McHenry	Poplar Grove to Lawrence
6/7/2008	1718	EF2	0	0	Kankakee, Will	Essex to Symerton
6/7/2008	1751	EF2	0	0	Will	Wilton Center
6/7/2008	1755	EF2	0	0	Will	Green Garden to Monee
6/7/2008	1813	EF2	0	6	Will, Cook	Monee to Park Forest
11/22/2010	1500	EF2	0	6	Winnebago, Boone, McHenry	Caledonia to Lawrence
11/17/2013	1222	EF2	0	3	Grundy, Will	Coal City to Wilmington
11/17/2013	1242	EF2	0	0	Will	Manhattan to Frankfort
6/22/2015	2145	EF3	0	0	Grundy, Will	Coal City to Braidwood

A significant tornado is defined as a tornado of F2/EF2 or greater intensity, or a tornado that caused any fatalities, or at least 10 injuries. The Fujita scale, or F scale, estimates wind speeds based on damage intensity. F scale is determined by conducting ground and air surveys of the damage path. The F scale was developed in the 1970s and was later applied to historical data based on written accounts and photographs of the tornado damage. Therefore the F scale ratings are subjective and may not accurately reflect the wind produced by the tornado. In 2007, the NWS adopted the Enhanced Fujita Scale, or EF scale, with more on this scale found [here](#).

The Chicago metropolitan area includes the following counties: McHenry, Lake, Kane, DuPage, Cook, Kendall, Will, and Lake (IN).

Sources: StormData, Storm Prediction Center, and Significant Tornadoes by Tom Grazulis.